

LHMP ANNEX

City of Burlingame

Introduction

The City of Burlingame is a moderately-sized city in San Mateo County, California. The City has a population of approximately 28,128 people, based on the 2000 census¹. Last year, the City's budget was \$65,000,000. The City employs 213 people. While the City provides local police services, the fire services are supplied by a separate fire district.

The Planning Process

This process of preparing this plan was familiar to the City of Burlingame. The City has a Safety Element to its General Plan last updated in 1975 that includes a discussion of fire, earthquake, flooding, and landslide hazards. The City of Burlingame is mostly built-out and the General Plan remains accurate. In addition, the City routinely enforces the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) which, since 1988, have required mitigation for identified natural hazards. The City's effort has focused on building on these pre-existing programs and identifying gaps that may lead to disaster vulnerabilities in order to work on ways to address these risks through mitigation.

Many of the activities conducted by the City were fed into the planning process for the multi-jurisdictional plan. The City participated in various ABAG workshops and meetings, including the general "kick-off" meeting and the soft-story charrette. In addition, the City has provided written and oral comments on the multi-jurisdictional plan. Finally, the City provided information on facilities that are viewed as "critical" to ABAG.

Key City staff met to identify and prioritize mitigation strategies appropriate for the City. Staff involved included the City Planner, Building Official, Assistant Public Works Director, EOS Coordinator, and Fire Marshal. The City provided the opportunity for public comment and the Resolution was adopted at the City Council meeting on February 6, 2006.

Hazard and Risk Assessment

The ABAG multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, to which this is an Annex, lists nine hazards that impact the Bay Area, five related to earthquakes (faulting, shaking, earthquake-induced landslides, liquefaction, and tsunamis) and four related to weather (flooding, landslides, wildfires, and drought).

Specific information is provided in the following section regarding the impacts on each of these on the City except for fault rupture, earthquake-induced landslides, tsunamis, and drought.

- ◆ While earthquake shaking from faults in neighboring communities is a problem in the City of Burlingame, there are no active faults that run through the City.

¹ For complete Census information on this city, see <http://www.bayareacensus.ca.gov/>.

- ◆ The California Geological Survey has not completed its mapping of earthquake-induced landslide susceptibility. Thus, no maps of this hazard exist for risk assessment. Mitigation strategy LAND-a-5 notes that the City is supportive of CGS in its efforts to complete this mapping.
- ◆ The impact of tsunamis is currently unknown. While the current Tsunami Evacuation Planning Maps do not show a hazard in the City, this is because the area has not been mapped. Researchers are currently examining the impact of tsunamis within San Francisco Bay. Preliminary work, as indicated in the ABAG multi-jurisdictional plan, appears to show that the run-up elevation would be from 10% to 50% of that at Ocean Beach in San Francisco. If so, many areas of the City with elevations of less than 21 feet would be inundated by water. However, the research is not published and is extremely preliminary. No further work on the tsunami hazard is possible in Burlingame until the maps are completed and published.
- ◆ Drought, though a potential problem in Burlingame, is not fully assessed. The City will be working with ABAG and local water districts on this issue.

While the City has undertaken a number of general hazard mapping activities since the first Safety Element was prepared by the City, all of these maps are less detailed and are not as current as those shown on the ABAG website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/>.

Information on disasters declared in San Mateo County is at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/disaster-history.html>.

The City examined the hazard exposure of City urban land based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>. Of the 2,970 urban acres in the City,

- ◆ 1,548 acres are in the 100-year flood plain;
- ◆ 326 acres are subject to dam inundation;
- ◆ 469 acres are in areas of existing landslides;
- ◆ 344 acres are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility;
- ◆ 2,715 acres are in the highest two categories of shaking potential, in large part because the San Andreas fault runs near the western portion of the City;
- ◆ 1,067 acres are subject to high, very high, or extreme wildfire threat (because of the urban nature of the City), but 400 acres are in wildland-urban interface threat areas.

The City also examined the hazard exposure of infrastructure based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>. Of the 91 miles of roadway in the City,

- ◆ 54 miles of roadway are in the 100-year flood plain, while an additional three miles are in other flood-prone areas;
- ◆ 10 miles of roadway are in an area subject to dam inundation;
- ◆ 3 miles of roadway are in areas of existing landslides;
- ◆ 5 miles of roadway are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility;
- ◆ 89 miles of roadway are in the highest two categories of shaking potential;
- ◆ while no miles of roadway are subject to high, very high, or extreme wildfire threat, 33 miles of roads are in wildland-urban interface threat areas.

Finally, the City examined the hazard exposure of critical health care facilities, schools, and city-owned buildings based on the information on ABAG's website at

<http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickcrit.html>. Of the critical facilities in the City,

- ◆ 2 critical health care facilities, 8 schools, and 25 city-owned facilities are in either the 100-year flood plain or in other flood-prone areas;
- ◆ 4 city-owned facilities, 0 critical health care facilities, and no schools are in an area subject to dam inundation;
- ◆ 4 city-owned facilities, 0 critical health care facilities, and no schools are in areas of existing landslides;
- ◆ 1 critical health care facility, 31 city-owned facilities, and 3 schools are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility;
- ◆ 9 schools and 59 of the 69 city-owned critical facilities are in the highest two categories of shaking potential;
- ◆ 7 schools and 20 city-owned critical facilities are in wildland-urban interface threat areas.

In spite of the areas of the City located in flood-prone areas, only 2 properties are repetitive loss properties in the City based on the information at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickflood.html>. As these impacts are not fully developed, Burlingame plans to work with ABAG in developing this information. The ABAG's Annex specifically states that ABAG will be working to provide more detailed information on impacts from early 2005 through early 2006. The City has reviewed the hazards identified and ranked the hazards based on past disasters and expected future impacts. The conclusion is that earthquakes (particularly shaking), landslides, liquefaction, and flooding are more important than wildfires, tsunamis and drought.

More specifically, the City plans to work with ABAG during 2005 to improve the risk assessment information being compiled by ABAG by providing information on unreinforced masonry buildings and soft-story apartments located in the City.

Mitigation Activities and Priorities

As a participant in the ABAG multi-jurisdictional planning process, City of Burlingame staff helped in the development and review of the comprehensive list of mitigation strategies in the overall multi-jurisdictional plan. The list was discussed with the City Planner, Building Official, Assistant Public Works Director, EOS Coordinator, and Fire Marshal at meetings held in March, 2005. These criteria include being technically and administratively feasible, politically acceptable, socially appropriate, legal, economically sound, and not harmful to the environment or our heritage.

Over time, we are committed to developing better hazard and risk information to use in making those trade-offs. We are not trying to create a disaster-proof region, but a disaster-resistant one. In addition, several of the strategies are existing City programs.

In the City of Burlingame, many of the mitigation strategies are existing programs already a part of the planning and review process, building and fire code enforcement, and development of the

City's General Plan. Any new activities identified as part of this Annex will be incorporated into these existing mechanisms. Other activities will require funds that have not been identified. The City will be working to identify potential funding sources, including capital improvement budgets, bond issues, and federal or state grants.

The Plan Maintenance and Update Process

The City's Engineering and Planning Departments will ensure that *monitoring* of this Annex will occur. The plan will be monitored on an on-going basis. However, the major disasters affecting our community, legal changes, notices from ABAG as the lead agency in this process, and other triggers will be used. Finally, the Annex will be a discussion item on the agenda of the meeting of City department heads at least once a year in April. At that meeting, the department heads will focus on *evaluating* the Annex in light of technological and political changes during the past year or other significant events. This group will be responsible for determining if the plan should be updated.

The City of Burlingame is committed to reviewing and updating this plan annex at least once every five years, as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The City Planner will contact ABAG four years after this plan is approved to ensure that ABAG plans to undertake the plan update process. If so, the City again plans to participate in the multi-jurisdictional plan. If ABAG is unwilling or unable to act as the lead agency in the multi-jurisdictional effort, other agencies will be contacted, including the County's Office of Emergency Services. Counties should then work together to identify another regional forum for developing a multi-jurisdictional plan.